Why Sustainability?
The Triple Bottom Line

**People**

*sus.tain’abil’i.ty:*

\[n., \text{the ability to meet the needs of the present}
\text{without compromising the ability of future}
\text{generations to meet their own needs.}\]

**Planet**

- We care about the Earth because we need a place to live

**Prosperity**

- Conserving our resources saves us money
A Quick Note

When thinking about how you fit into a sustainable NIU, remember this:

Try to make better choices, you do not have to be perfect

If everyone thought they had to be perfect to make a difference, then nothing would ever change
So, what is NIU doing to be sustainable?

The short answer...more than you think

- LED
- Permeable Parking
- Construction
- Building Automation Control Systems
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- **Recycling** is an option in blue bins both indoors and outdoors
- Donate your gently-used items towards the end of spring semester

Northern Illinois University
What can you do?

- Use **H₂O hydration stations** to refill your reusable water bottle
- Take less food & reduce food waste
- Ditch bottled water
- Reduce your use of straws
- Donate your gently-used goods
- Bring your own container for take out items

Northern Illinois University
Energy Efficiency

• NIU has worked with an outside company to reduce energy bills for campus – saving nearly $4 million dollars each year!

What can you do?

• Unplug or use power strips
• Turn off the lights
• Wash clothes on cold
• Hang dry clothes
• Ride a bike
Food & Habitat Gardens

NIU Communniversity Gardens
Vegetable and pollinator locations across campus

What can you do?
• Volunteer
• Take a course
• Get an internship
In the Classroom

Ways to include sustainability:

- **Major, minor, certificate, pathway focus**
- Classes
- Study Abroad
- Internships
- Research
Student Clubs

Choose from lots of **environmentally-minded organizations**

- Service
- Advocacy
- Education and Outreach
  
- Career Planning
- Topic-based (ex: wildlife)

And more...
Who tracks all this?

• The NIU Green Team advises on cost-effective measures that promote environmental sustainability and stewardship in a manner that is consistent with the mission of NIU.

• 2018 - 2019 meetings (Holmes Student Center)
  - 2-3p, August 1, October 3, December 5, February 6, April 3, June 5
  - 5-6p, September 5, November 7, March 6, May 1
We always have more to do…

- Writing the first **sustainability plan** for NIU
- Collaborating on a Communiversity bike-share program
- Increasing the ways for students to get involved
Contact us

- www.niu.edu/sustainability/
- GreenTeam@niu.edu